

# Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish



Hello friends,

Forgive me for shamelessly copying a good bit of last weekend's bulletin article, but A) I'm getting it together before I head out two weeks ago (super not confusing), and B) it's very important. This whole process is designed to provide the Bishop and his team the clearest vision of the Diocese and his people possible, and your participation will go a long way in helping there. So without further ado, the copy and paste. Feel free to re-read or disregard if you caught last weekend's...

I'd like to invite you all to one of our upcoming Listening Sessions (a part of the pastoral/strategic planning work at the Diocese, formally titled "Rebuild my Church"). Fr. Derek Sakowski is heading up this whole process and moving us now into the next phase – a series of townhall style evenings or afternoons to share vision with the people of the Diocese and (most importantly in reality and in intention) to hear from the people of the Diocese what their needs, fears, strengths, and hopes are. When we started this whole process up a year or so ago, there was some desire amongst the priests to jump right ahead to "what's the plan?" It's a fair request, and I'm grateful to have witnessed my brother priests and yourselves allowing it to be tabled. While it takes a lot more work to make something truly consultative, I've been impressed by the slow-and-steady work of sparking and building momentum rather than skipping gears to the end.

Anyway, we're shooting for some 40 of these Listening Sessions over the Fall and getting it started early in the Richland Center Deanery. Our first session will be right in Viroqua (I imagine Marian Hall) on September 7, at Noon. This will give folks a chance to get kids home after Mass as needed, grab a quick bite, or come in from other parishes' Masses. We want and I want you to come if you're a time/resource/position-invested stakeholder in the parish, if you're a there-every-weekend parishioner, if you're sporadic- or travelling-often parishioner, if you're... That's to say I just want you there. The whole goal of this process is to understand where we are as a People, to have the best sense we can of where the Holy Spirit is moving and where He is leading His people, and to take into clear account how the Lord is inviting us as a Diocese to respond to present and (*continued on page 2*)

**August 24, 2025**  
**21st Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

*Readings are in the hymnal,*  
**#1154**

## **Eucharist**

**Saturdays - 6:30 PM**

**Sundays - 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday - 5:15 PM**

**Fridays - 8:00 AM**

## **Livestreaming Mass**

[www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysCoonValley)

## **Diocese of La Crosse**

### **Televised Mass on**

**Channel 19, Sunday, 9:30 AM**

## **Pastoral Visits:**

Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one is in need of a pastoral visit.

Let us know if you would like to be remembered in our parish's public prayers.

## **Baptism**

Call the parish office for information and scheduling.

## **Confession**

Sat. 5:45 PM, Sun. 9:45 AM,  
Wed. 5:45 PM during Adoration

## **Rosary:**

The Holy Rosary is prayed 30 minutes before all Masses

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

1st Friday each month after Mass

Benediction at 10 AM;

Every Tuesday 4:30 PM in CV

Every Wednesday 5:45 PM

## **Giving:**

On-line -

<https://diolc.org/annunciation-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary-parish-viroqua>

## **Parish Offices**

OPEN: MTWF - 8 AM-4 PM

Parish Website [www.stmaryviroqua.org](http://www.stmaryviroqua.org); Parish Fax (608) 299-3721

Father Joseph M. Richards, Pastor, (608) 606-9787; Deacon Tony Shay; Diana Hernandez-Torres, Sacristan

Pat Obernberger, Coordinator of Ongoing Formation, [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711

Beth Laurdan, Music Director, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net); (608) 637-7711; Tom Leis, Librarian, [saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com)

Fran Campbell, Secretary/Bookkeeper, [stmaryparish@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryparish@mwt.net), (608) 637-7711; Parish Kitchen (608) 637-7878

400 Congress Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

# August 24, 2025

*(continued from page 1)* future needs and opportunities with present and future resources. Scarcity, fear, the deeply-ingrained narrative of old grievances and wounds – these are all important to notice specifically so we can hand them to the Lord in freedom. The Holy Spirit is inviting us into a season of curiosity and opportunity here – let's walk into it together!

The short version: mark your calendar for September 7, at noon in Viroqua. God bless you all,

Fr. Joe

Please join us for one of our upcoming Deanery Listening Sessions, part of the Rebuild My Church initiative. These sessions will be on September 7, at Noon in Viroqua; on September 10, at 6:30 PM in Keyesville; and on October 2, at 6:00 PM in Hillsboro. More information to come.

**Fall Dinner Update:** Thanks to all who made it to the planning meeting last Thursday! Initial planning has started, and it looks to be another wonderful parish event! Reminder, the date of the dinner is **October 15<sup>th</sup>**! We do have a couple vacancies at this point and are looking for someone to fill the roles of Dining Room Chairperson and Kitchen Chairperson. The biggest piece of those two jobs involves supervising the volunteers in those areas the day of the dinner. Please prayerfully consider whether you'd be able to help in either of those positions. If you're interested or have questions about that or anything else Fall Dinner related, please feel free to reach out. I'm really looking forward to another fun (crazy, busy, spirit filled) dinner! Julie Moore, Fall Dinner Chairperson 307-359-2322

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**LIBRARY CORNER** *What's the Smoke For?* Is the title of a smaller paperback in our collection. It was published in 2014 and the author, Johan Van Parys, addresses questions that Catholics and non-Catholics might have about the liturgy. It is written in a question and answer format. As the title suggests, the use of incense is explained. The book is only 155 pages in length, but it does cover topics from *Is it ok for altar servers to wear blinking sneakers?*, to *Is it appropriate to veil statues during Lent?* In regard to funerals, *What does the church really say about cremation; can a eulogy be included?* Much of what is included in this book was not new or contradictory to me. One of the entries that caused me to take pause, however, has to do with the use of Latin in the Catholic liturgy. I did not realize that in the early church the Mass was offered in Greek, a language the majority of people did not understand. The use of Greek was gradually *(continued on page 4)*

# August 24, 2025

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Week of Aug. 4-10, 2025

Offertory: \$2,778.59

Total: \$2,778.59

Needed Weekly: \$4,600.00

Works of Charity: \$1,072.00

July E-gifts: \$2,929.93

THANK YOU!

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 23 August, 6:30 PM +Mike Culek**

(Patricia Biebl)

**Sunday, 24 August, 10:30 AM People of the Annunciation & St.**

**Mary's Parishes**

**Wednesday, 27 August, 5:15 PM Women of the Parish**

(PCCW)

**Friday, 29 August, 8:00 AM +Alice Atteln**

(Ann Graham)

**Saturday, 30 August, 6:30 PM +Mike Culek**

(Patricia Rubasch)

**Sunday, 31 August, 10:30 AM +Ursula Werner**

(Sonja Finn)

## Ministry Schedule

**Sat., Aug. 30, 6:30 PM**

Pat Biebl Eucharistic Minister

Will Fisher Altar Server

Sheryl Robinson Lector

**Sun., Aug. 31, 10:30 AM**

Al Mislivecek Eucharistic Minister

Basil Stevenson Altar Server

Reuben Stevenson Altar Server

Matthew Tubbin Lector

**If not able to serve as scheduled, please request a sub through MSP. Thank you!**

## CHURCH CALENDAR

**PCCW CIRCLE FOR AUGUST: ST. BRIDGET**

**Monday, 25 August, 5:00-6:30 PM Community Meal at Good**

**Shepherd Church**

**Tuesday-Wednesday, 26-27 August, Parish Office Closed**

**Wednesday, 27 August, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM St. Mary's Quilters in**

**Marian Hall**

**Monday, 1 September, Parish Office Closed in observance of Labor**

**Day**

Come one and all to learn about the **formation opportunities and sacramental preparation** for the upcoming year on **September 14, after the 10:30 AM Mass!** Family of Faith is in year four of its four year cycle; and we will have materials to hand out, along with Safe Environment grade appropriate training. CGS is growing with a second level atrium, and we will continue to promote Bible studies for all ages. Keep an eye on bulletin calendars and send an Email to [stmaryformation@mwt.net](mailto:stmaryformation@mwt.net) if you have any questions.

**LDCCW SHARE SHOP - Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, La Crosse**

FREE admission; 9:30 AM registration OR to register, email [kay@pmcmgmt.com](mailto:kay@pmcmgmt.com) or call/text 608-780-0485.

*(see gathering space bulletin board for more information)*

**Moving Through Grief Together**

Emplify Health by Gundersen Drop-In Grief Support Group

First and third Saturdays of every month

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Location: Ross Conference Room, Emplify Health by Gundersen Hospital-La

Crosse Campus, 1900 South Ave., La Crosse, WI.

The sessions are free of charge and advance registration is not required. The group is open to the public (visitor guidelines must be followed). Directions to the Ross Conference Room are available at the hospital main entrance information desk.

Upcoming 2025 dates:

September 6 & 20

November 2 & 16

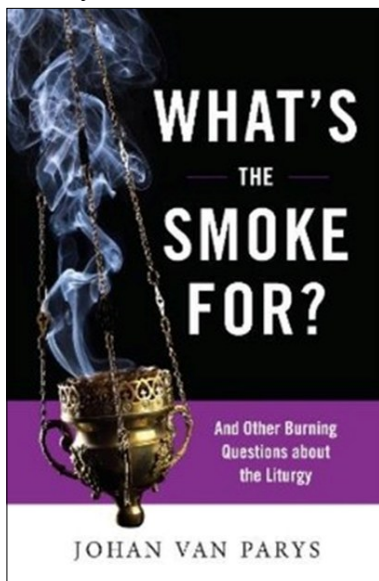
October 5 & 19

December 6 & 20

# August 24, 2025

(continued from page 2) replaced by Latin around the second century. I was much less surprised by his response to the question about blinking sneakers.

Tom Leis,  
Parish Librarian  
saintmaryparishlibrary@gmail.com



## Pastoral Council Members

Kris Brueggen  
Phyllis Krause  
David Hall

Cathy Poshepny  
Jenny Leum  
Dcn. Tony Shay

Dennis Vinger

Our Pastoral Council is here to serve. They help us discern the needs of our community and the call of the Spirit in our time. If you wish to speak with a Council member about your concerns, please contact the parish office - 608-637-7711 or stmaryparish@mwt.net.

The **contemplative reading group** is gathering on **September 21, 2025**, in the parish library to discuss *The Interior Castle - St. Teresa of Avila* translation by Mirabai Starr.



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### Kickapoo Counseling

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[info@kickapoo-counseling.com](mailto:info@kickapoo-counseling.com)

If you would like to advertise on this page, please contact 608-637-7711

**Roger and Joyce Humfeld**  
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608-606-0832 (cell)  
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*"Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." ~ Luke 13:30*